

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner asserts that claim 1 is anticipated by Casiraghi. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 defines an optical fiber cable comprising, inter alia, at least one central strength member, at least one optical fiber, a metallic conductor means surrounding said fiber for transporting electrical energy through the cable and, surrounding said conductor means, an insulative layer of an insulative composition comprising mainly a mixture of polymers comprising at least one high-density first polymer and one low-density second polymer which has a lower viscosity than said first polymer, the insulative layer providing improved resistance to breakdown upon application of an electrical field.

Applicants submit that the composition of the insulative layer of Casiraghi is different from the insulative layer recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 1 recites that the insulative layer comprises an insulative composition which insulative composition comprises mainly a mixture of polymers, the polymers comprising at least one high density first polymer and one low density second polymer.

There are only three examples mentioned in Casiraghi that relate to a combination of first high density polymer and a second low density polymer, being examples M4-M6 in table 1 comprising EVA being Elvax ®265 of Du Pont which has a density of proximately 0.95, which is according to the present invention a high density polymer (please find enclosed a copy of the data sheet of Elvax).

In addition, these examples comprise LLDPE being Escorene ® of Exxon, with a density of 0.918 which is according to the definition of the present invention a low density second polymer. These are the only examples coming close to the present invention.

The Examiner incorrectly states that a person skilled in the art would be able to select a suitable combination from the long lists as recited in the description of Casiraghi (for example column 4). On the contrary, such a combination of specific polymers, having specific densities and specific viscosities, would not have been obvious to a person of skill in the art.

Only the examples M4, M5 and M6 show a person skilled in the art that a mixture of high density ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers and linear low-density polyethylene gives good results. However, these compositions do not fall under the scope of claim 1 since they comprise a very large amount (approximately 60% per weight) of an inorganic filler, being $Mg(OH)_2$, which is in contradiction with the present invention as recited in claim 1 wherein insulative composition comprises mainly of a mixture of polymers.

In addition, claim 1 states that the second low density polymer should have a lower viscosity than the first high density polymer. A data sheet of Elvax ® 265 shows that this product has a melt flow index of 3 (which melt flow index is reversely proportional to the viscosity) whereas the data sheet (enclosed) of the LLDPE Escorene LL 1004 shows a MF1 of 2.8.

This means that since the melt flow index of the high density first polymer is higher than the melt flow index of the low density second polymer, the viscosity of the high density first polymer is lower than the viscosity of the low density second polymer which is in contrast with the claim as on file now.

A person skilled in the art would, starting from the specific examples as mentioned in Casiraghi, not find an incentive to lower the amount of filler so that the insulative composition comprises mainly of a mixture of polymer. In addition, a person skilled in the art would not find an incentive to change the viscosity so that the low density second polymer has a lower viscosity than the high density first polymer. Hence, a person skilled in the art would, starting from Casiraghi, not arrive at the invention as recited in amended claim 1.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 3, claim 3 relates to a mixture of a high density polyethylene polymer and the second polymer being a low density polyethylene which specific combination is not recited in Casiraghi. Thus, claim 3 is further patentable over Casiraghi.

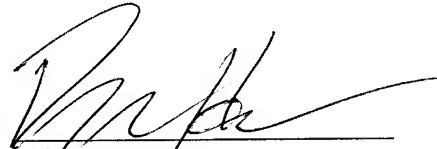
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/796,126

Q80242

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Hannon', written over a horizontal line.

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